

# ***Life Sketches: Lieutenant-Governors, Governors and Presidents***

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# Life Sketches: Lieutenant-Governors, Governors & Presidents

*Iftikhar-ul-Awwal*

**S**ince the transfer of Bengal's capital from Dhaka to Murshidabad in the early years of the eighteenth century, Dhaka and Eastern Bengal itself remained a much-neglected region. Even when the British government took control of Bengal in the second half of the eighteenth century after *Palashi* (1757), and more fully after the grant of the *Diwani* (1765), they paid little attention towards Eastern Bengal's development. It remained

Abbreviations used are: ADC= Aide-de-Camp; AL=Awami League; B.A.= Bachelor of Arts; B. L.= Bachelor of Law; BLA=Bengal Legislative Assembly; BLC= Bengal Legislative Council; BNP=Bangladesh Nationalist Party; B. Sc.= Bachelor of Science; BST= Bangladesh Standard Time; CA=Constituent Assembly; CIE= Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire; CMLA= Chief Martial Law Administrator; CSI= Companion of the Order of the Star of India; DU= Dhaka University; EB= East Bengal; EP= East Pakistan; EPLA= East Pakistan Legislative Assembly; FCPS= Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; FRCS= Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; GCIE= Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire; GOB= Government of Bangladesh; GOC= General Officer Commanding; GOEB= Government of East Bengal; GOEP= Government of East Pakistan; GOI= Government of India; GOP= Government of Pakistan; HC= High Court; HJ= Hilal-i-Jurat; HQA= Hilal-i- Quaid-i-Azam; ICS= Indian Civil Service; I. Sc.= Intermediate of Science; ISO= Imperial Service Order; JS= Jatiya Sangsad; KCIE= Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire; KCSI= Knight Commander of the Star of India; Kt= Knight; LL. B.= Bachelor of Law; M. A.= Master of Arts; MC= Military Cross; MLA= Martial Law Administrator; MP= Member of Parliament; MRCP= Member of the Royal College of Physicians; M. Sc. = Master of Science; OBE= Officer of the Order of the British Empire; Ph. D.= Doctor of Philosophy; SC= Supreme Court; S.K= Sitara-i-Khidmat; S.Pk= Sitara-i- Pakistan; S.Q.A.= Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam; SEATO= South-East Asia Treaty Organization; TDD= Tubercular Diseases Diploma; UK= United Kingdom; UN= United Nations; USA= United States of America.

mainly a hinterland of Kolkata, supplying much-needed raw materials for foreign exports such as raw jute, indigo, raw silk, rice and finished products like cotton textiles till the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Lord Curzon (1899-1905), the Governor General, who was also an ardent advocate of efficiency, noticed that the Muslims of East Bengal were backward in all respects in comparison to the Hindus of the region. They lamented their situation and made occasional pleas to the Government but seldom did anything to mobilize them. He, therefore, decided to partition Bengal into two halves for better and efficient administration and to give Muslims the benefits of British rule.\* He might have also been influenced by the growth of nationalist sentiments in Bengal during this time. The cumulative result was the Partition of Bengal, an act that received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, St. John Brodrick in June 1905. Consequently, the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam officially came into being on 16 October 1905. The province constituted of Assam, Eastern and Northern Bengal with an area of 106, 540 square miles and a population of 31 million of whom 18 million were Muslims and 12 million Hindus.

After a lapse of nearly two centuries, Dhaka became once again the capital of a province. Between 1905 and 1912, J. B. Fuller, Lancelot Hare and Charles Stuart Bayley served the new province as its Lt. Governors. They all resided in the area now called Bangabhaban. Hindu vested interest groups, however, made the partition an occasion for unprecedented agitation. Determined to undo it, they launched the *swadeshi* movement, boycotted British textile products, and also simultaneously backed revolutionary terrorism everywhere in Bengal. The British Government ultimately bowed to their demands and unsettled a "settled fact".

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\* Here it may be mentioned that from 1853 to 1872 at least three Lt. Governors Sir Charles Grant, Sir Willian Grey and Sir George Campbell and two Governor Generals Lord Dalhousie and Sir John Lawrence pointed to the need for Bengal's territorial readjustment. They felt that the province was two unwieldy a charge for a Lt. Governor to do justice to all. Even in the 1890s, Sir William Ward, Chief Commissioner of Assam, suggested the transfer of certain districts of Eastern Bengal to Assam.

The anti-partition agitation spearheaded by the Hindus and its ultimate revocation in 1912, however, laid the seeds of communal politics in India. Finding themselves helpless and politically weak, Muslims decided to counter the initiatives of the Hindu-dominated Indian National Congress. The genesis of Muslim separatism can thus be traced to the anti-partition movement as well as the foundation of the All-India Muslim League in December 1906 in Dhaka. From 1906 to the Lahore Resolution of 1940, the Muslim League claimed to be the sole representative of the Muslims of India and sought to safeguard the interest of their community by demanding adequate representation for them in the central and provincial legislatures, including local bodies, and by claiming due 'weightage'.

Unfortunately, the Indian National Congress did not have the foresight or the broad-mindedness to accommodate the grievances of the Muslim community. All the discussions between the two major communities of Bengal including the British Government's mediation efforts (Cripp's Mission of 1942, the Wavell Plan of 1945 and the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946) proved ineffectual. The result was the division of India into two independent states. The Muslim majority state of Pakistan came into being on 14 August 1947. It had two wings-West Pakistan and East Bengal-though separated from one another by more than thousand miles of Indian territory.

Sir Frederick Bourne, the last Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, was chosen to become the first Governor of East Bengal. From 15 August 1947 to 16 December 1971, twenty-four persons held the charge of Governor or Acting Governor or Head of Civil Administration or MLA. Many resided at present day Bangabhaban, then called 'Governor House', while some performed their official duties at Bangabhaban, even if for a short while. Profiles of all those administrators, resident or non-resident, have been included in this chapter (a chronological list of which is appended at the end of the text).

Once the Islamic State of Pakistan was born, cultural, economic and administrative issues came to play a greater role in everyday life. Although

the majority of the population of Pakistan lived in East Bengal, Karachi was initially chosen as the capital of the central government of Pakistan. Later the capital was shifted twice more, once to Rawalpindi and later to Islamabad. The bureaucrats and politicians of the central government who formulated the infant state's policies were mostly Urdu speaking up-country migrants from India. They tried to make Urdu the state language of Pakistan, even though over half the population of the country spoke Bengali and demanded that Bengali too should be made a state language. In the agitation, called the Language Movement, several Bengalis embraced martyrdom as a result of police firing. The defence forces soon took over the administration. In fact, with the accession of Major General Iskander Mirza as Governor General on 7 August 1955, the country was virtually in the grip of the West Pakistan-dominated Army. Though East Bengal/ East Pakistan was the major earner of Pakistan's foreign currency, the annual budgetary allocation for its eastern wing was far less than that of West Pakistan.

To correct the imbalance in the distribution of national resources between the two wings and for faster economic development of East Pakistan, in 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formulated a six-point programme, the essence of which was the demand for provincial autonomy. The programme was supported overwhelmingly by the people of East Pakistan in the general elections that took place in 1970-71. But the military junta in power conspired with the Pakistan People's Party Chief, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Secretly, they decided to arrest Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and crush the aspirations of the people of East Pakistan by using the Army. They started their "operation" on the midnight of 25 March 1971, killing thousands of innocent people, including hundreds of students and torching houses, mercilessly. East Pakistanis responded by declaring independence. The War of Liberation continued for nearly nine months, ending only with the surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces on 16 December 1971 and the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state.

Since April 1971, fifteen persons have graced the office of the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Some of them were Presidents under

the presidential system of Government while others functioned under parliamentary democracies. Some were Acting Presidents or CMLA while others were Presidents elected directly by the people or indirectly by the JS. Three of them also held the office twice. A chronological list of all the Presidents/Acting Presidents of the Republic can be seen in Table 3 of the Appendix at the end of this chapter.

## Lieutenant-Governors of the Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1905-1912

### **Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller**

Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, assumed the charge of his office on 16 October 1905. He was also the first head of government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to reside at the newly built temporary Government House (inside the present *Bangabhaban*) from 14 February 1906. Son of a vicar of Hampshire, Fuller was born on 20 March 1854. Educated at Marlborough College, he entered the Indian Civil Service in 1875. He was appointed, successively, Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Central Provinces, 1885; Additional Member of Viceroy's Council, 1899; Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Departments, 1901-02; Chief Commissioner of Assam, 1902-05; and Lt. Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1905-06. He resigned on 20 August 1906 because of the Government of India's refusal to support reprisal against schoolboy agitators in Sirajganj. He was conferred the title of CIE in 1892; CSI in 1902; KCSI in 1906. His publications include *Studies of Indian Life and Sentiments* (1910), *The Empire of India* (1913), *Life and Human Nature* (1914), *Man As He Is* (1916), *The Science of Ourselves* (1921), *Causes and Consequences* (1923), *The Law Within* (1926), *Etheric Energies* (1928), *Some Personal Experiences* (1930) and *The Tyranny of the Mind* (1935).

His second wife (married in 1884), Sarah Augusta, daughter of Arthur Wellesley Critchley accompanied him to Dhaka. Sir Fuller died on 29 November 1935.

### **Sir Lancelot Hare**

Sir Lancelot Hare succeeded Fuller as Lt. Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam on 20 August 1906. Born in London on 7 January 1851, he was the youngest son of late Thomas Hare of Hook, Surrey. Educated at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, and City of London School. Married Laura Maud (died 1916), the eldest daughter of late General Sir John Nation in 1881. Sir Hare joined ICS and served in Bengal and Assam, 1873; Member, Board of Revenue; Member of the Governor General's Council, 1905-06; officiating Lt. Governor of Bengal, 1906; Lt. Governor, Eastern Bengal and Assam till August 1911. He was decorated for distinguished services in India with titles of KCSI (1907), CSI (1906), and CIE (1900). He died on 7 October 1922.

During his tenure of office, Swadeshi movement and revolutionary terrorism took root not only in Dhaka but also in the far-flung areas of Eastern Bengal. With the growth of Dhaka's importance as a provincial capital, imposing buildings like the Government House (old High Court building), Curzon Hall, Secretariat Building (present Medical College) and many other spacious residential houses and buildings with gardens were constructed for high civil and military officials. Hare also laid the foundation stone of Dhaka Club Limited on 19 August 1911.

### **Sir Charles Stuart Bayley**

Son of Capt. Daniel Bayley of Bengal Cavalry and grandson of W. B. Bayley (officiating Governor General from March to July 1828), Charles Stuart Bayley was born on 17 March 1854. He was educated at Harrow

and Heidelberg and became a Barrister-at-Law from Lincoln's Inn. He joined the ICS in 1877. Was Under Secretary to the Governments of Bengal and India; Political Agent in Bikaner; General Superintendent of Operations for the Suppression of Thugee and Dakaiti; Agent to the Governor General in Central India; Resident at Hyderabad, 1905. He also officiated as Lt. Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam from 19 May to 15 November 1908. Was appointed and took office as Lt. Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam on 22 August 1911 and remained in office till the formal annulment of Eastern Bengal and Assam province on 1 April 1912. Later he became Lt. Governor of Bihar and Orissa, 1 April - 19 November 1915, Member, Council of India, 1915 - 24. Created GCIE in 1915. Earlier received the titles of ISO (1912), KCSI (1908). Married to Sarah Constance (1880), daughter of late Major General A. E. Campbell of the Indian Army. Had two sons and two daughters. Died on 19 September 1935.

The winding up of the provincial administration fell on him. It was during his time that Lord Hardinge visited Dhaka from 29-31 January 1912. During this visit Hardinge promised to set up a University at Dhaka. The Lt. Governor held a Durbar at the Curzon Hall on 19 March 1912 to distribute Sanads to citizens who received titles of honour.

## Governors and Acting Governors of East Bengal/ East Pakistan 1947-1971

### **Sir Frederick Chalmers Bourne**

Sir Frederick Chalmers Bourne, son of Sir Frederick Bourne and Isabel Alice, was born on 12 August 1891. Educated at Rugby, and obtained his M. A. degree from Christ Church, Oxford. Served in 4th Battalion Queen's Own (RW Kent Regiment), 1910-20. Joined as an ICS officer, 1920. Was Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, 1937-40; Secretary to Government of Punjab Home Department, 1940-41; Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, 1941-45. Bourne was appointed Acting Governor of Central

Provinces and Berar, May - October 1945; Acting Governor of Assam, 1946; Governor of Central Provinces and Berar, 1946-47. He was the first Governor of EB from 15 August 1947 till 5 April 1950. Later, Advisor, Gold Coast, 1955. He was conferred with the following honours: KCSI (1946); CSI (1944); CIE (1941). Married Heather Frances in 1918, daughter of late Lt. Col. F.W. Burbury. She accompanied her husband to Dhaka.

It was during his tenure that Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Governor General of Pakistan visited Dhaka in March 1948. Jinnah's speeches regarding Urdu to be the only state language of Pakistan infuriated the people of EB. The demand to make Bengali one of the state languages of Pakistan gained considerable momentum since then.

### **Justice A. S. M. Akram**

Justice A. S. M. Akram was Acting Governor of EB from 16 March 1949 till 25 April 1949 during the leave of absence of Sir Frederick Chalmers Bourne. Justice Akram joined the Bengal Judicial Service on 10 April 1937 as Judge, Small Causes Court. He became Additional Judge of Calcutta HC on 5 May 1941; Puisne Judge on 6 December 1943; Chief Justice, HC, Dhaka on 15 August 1947.

### **Malik Mohammad Firoz Khan Noon**

Malik Mohammad Firoz Khan Noon took oath of office as Governor of EB on the evening of 5 April 1950. Justice Shahabuddin, Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, administered the oath of office to him. Firoz Khan Noon left EB on 26 March 1953 to take up his new assignment as the Chief Minister of the Punjab.\*

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\* He conveyed his resignation as Governor of East Bengal by telegram before taking oath of office as the Chief Minister of the Punjab on 3 April 1953.

Born on 7 May 1893, he was a son of Hon. Nawab Sir Malik Mohammed Hayed Khan Noon of the Punjab. He was educated at Aitchison College, Lahore and later at Wadham College, Oxford from where he received his M. A. degree in 1916. He was called to the Bar from Inner Temple, London. Noon practiced law at Lahore High Court from 1917 to 1926. He was a member of the Punjab Legislature, 1920-1936; Minister for Local Self-Government, Punjab Government, 1927-30; Minister for Education and Medical and Public Health, 1931-36. He was appointed High Commissioner for India in UK, 1936-41; Labour Member of Viceroy's Executive Council, India, 1941-42; Defence Member, 1942-45; Indian Representative, British War Cabinet, 1944-45; member of Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly (formed in 1947) and also of the second Constituent Assembly of 1955. He was Chief Minister of the Punjab till June 1955. In 1956, he assumed the charge as Foreign Minister of Pakistan in Suharwardy's Cabinet. Noon became Prime Minister of Pakistan on 16 December 1957 and remained in office till 7 October 1958 when Martial Law was declared in the country. He authored five books: *Canada and India* (1939); *Wisdom for Fools* (1940); *Illustrated India* (1940); *Scented Dust* (1941); *From Memory: an autobiography* (1966). He was awarded the titles of KCSI (1941), KCIE (1937), Kt. (1933). His wife Viqar-un-Nisa Noon (former name Elizabeth Rikh whom he married in 1942) was a dedicated social worker. In 1952, she founded Viqar-un-Nisa Noon School and College in Dhaka, although initially it was only a preparatory school. Firoz Khan Noon died on 9 December 1970 at Sargodha.

## Abdur Rahman Siddiqui

During the leave of absence of Malik Firoz Khan Noon, Abdur Rahman Siddiqui officiated as Governor of EB. Siddiqui, aged 65, assumed office on 25 July 1952. Justice Shahabuddin, Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, administered the oath of office to him. Educated at Aligarh and the United Kingdom, Siddiqui was a front-ranking Muslim League leader, and had taken part in the Khilafat Movement. He was considered an expert in Middle-Eastern affairs, and was a central figure in the Pakistan Movement.

## **Choudhury Khaliuzzaman**

Choudhury Khaliuzzaman became Governor of EB on 4 April 1953. Justice T. H. Ellis of Dhaka HC administered the oath of office to him.

Born in 1889 in Lucknow, Khaliuzzaman entered politics while still an intermediate student during the Balkan War. He left studies to join Dr. M. A. Ansari's medical mission to Turkey. On his return, he completed his education at M. A. O. College, Aligarh. Later, he started legal practice at the Lucknow Bar. He joined the Khilafat and non-cooperation movement and suffered imprisonment for two years. In 1923, Choudhury Khaliuzzaman was elected Chairman of Lucknow Municipal Board for the first time. He held this office again from 1926 to 1929 and from 1935 to 1947. Khaliuzzaman joined the Muslim League in 1936 (prior to his joining the Muslim League, he was a Member of the Congress Parliamentary Board). He successfully contested the first election held under the 1935 Act and was elected leader of the Muslim League Party in the United Provinces Assembly in 1937 - a position he held till 1947. Choudhury Khaliuzzaman was a member of the All-India Muslim League Working Committee from 1937 onwards. He played a leading role during the Cripps Mission talks and the Simla Conference as a representative of the League High Command. After partition, he was elected leader of the Muslim League Party in the Indian Constituent Assembly but soon opted for Pakistan.

On coming to Pakistan, Choudhury Khaliuzzaman was elected Convenor of the Pakistan Muslim League in February 1948 and was entrusted with the task of reorganizing it. He was elected the first President of the Party, a position that he relinquished in the mid 1950s. Khaliuzzaman served as Governor of EB for nearly fourteen months till 30 May 1954. It was during his time that general elections to the provincial legislature took place. The United Front won a landslide victory by defeating the Muslim League. A. K. Fazlul Huq, the Chief Minister, and other Ministers, took oath of office on 3 April 1954.

Choudhury Khaliuzzaman's wife, Begum Zaheda Khaliuzzaman, brought certain changes of custom in Governor's House. These included serving Pakistani food instead of English, offering *pan-elachi*, and holding *milad* and *quawali*.

## Major General Iskander Mirza

With the dismissal of the United Front Ministry in EB, Governor General Ghulam Mohammed decided to enforce Governor's Rule in the province and appointed Iskander Mirza as Governor in May 1954. General Mirza assumed the governorship on 30 May but relinquished his office that September. In other words, he was Governor of the province for less than four months.

Born on 13 November 1899 in the Murshidabad Nawab family, he was educated at Elphinstone College, Bombay. He was selected for Sandhurst Military Academy in 1918 and on his return inducted into the British Indian Army in 1919. He left the Army and joined the Indian Political Service in 1926. He was Deputy Commissioner of Hazara and Mardan, 1931-36; Political Agent, Khyber in 1938; Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, 1940-45; and Political Agent to Orissa states in 1945. He was appointed Joint Secretary, GOI, and Ministry of Defence in 1946. After Partition, he was appointed Defence Secretary, GOP. He served in this position for seven years before being appointed Governor of EB.

Though he ruled only for a while, General Mirza managed to sow the seed of hatred for the central government in the hearts of the people of EB permanently. He used brute force in order to establish peace and within a month of his assuming office arrested 1051 persons including 33 Assembly Members. Amongst those arrested were Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Yousaf Ali Choudhury and two Professors of University of Dacca. He re-introduced western ways in Governor's House. Dance, dinner, music and drinking of wine became a regular feature during his tenure of office.

After his governorship, Iskander Mirza became the Interior Minister of Pakistan from October 1954 till August 1955, and then Minister of States and Frontier Agencies in the cabinet of Prime Minister Mohammed Ali of Bogra. He became Governor General of Pakistan on 7 August 1955 and remained in this position till 23 March 1956 when the constitution of Pakistan was adopted. The constitution changed the title of the Governor General to President. The Constituent Assembly (renamed after the adoption of constitution as the Legislative Assembly) elected him as the first President of Pakistan unanimously. He served in this position from 23 March 1956 till 27 October 1958. Iskander Mirza was a power-hungry man and played the politicians against each other. During his three years tenure, four Prime Ministers were changed. Ayub Khan ousted him in October 1958. Mirza spent the rest of his life in a hotel room in London. He died on 15 November 1969.

### **Sir Thomas Hobart Ellis**

Justice Thomas Hobart Ellis became temporary Governor of EB on 21 September 1954. He took oath of office on 25 October 1954 when Iskander Mirza was taken into the central cabinet as Minister. Justice Ellis continued as Governor till 22 December 1954.

Thomas Hobart Ellis was born on 11 October 1894 in Farsley, near Leeds. He was the son of Rev. Herbert Ellis. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School, and graduated in 1917 from Queen's College, Oxford. He entered ICS in 1919. After having served as Sub-Divisional Officer in various districts, he became Additional District and Sessions Judge of Jessore; Chairman, Conciliation Board in August 1938; and Special Officer, Air Raid Precaution (ARP), Bengal in February 1942. He became Additional Judge of HC, Kolkata, 1944-47; Judge of HC of EB, 1947-53. He presided at the inquiry into the firing by the police during the language agitation of 1952. He was Chief Justice of East Bengal HC, 1953-54. The British Government invested him with the title of Knight Bachelor in January 1953. He served as Officer on Special Duty, GOP, 1955-57.

## **Justice Mohammad Shahabuddin**

Justice Mohammad Shahabuddin was sworn in as Acting Governor of EB in the forenoon of 22 December 1954. The Chief Secretary to the GOEB, Mr. Niaz Mohammed Khan read out the commission of appointment. Justice Amir-ud-Din Ahmad, acting Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, administered the oath of allegiance and office. Justice Shahabuddin tendered his resignation owing to differences of opinion about the restoration of parliamentary government in EB. His resignation was accepted with effect from 14 June 1955.

Justice Shahabuddin was born on 13 May 1895 in Madras. He was a nominated ICS officer, the date of covenant being 12 December 1921. He was District Judge of Coimbatore, Saran, and Chittor, 1936-37; Additional Judge of HC, Madras in February, 1943; HC Judge, Dhaka on 16 November 1947; Member, Sind Special Court in June 1948; and Chief Justice, Dhaka HC from 16 March 1949 to 25 April 1949. He rejoined the Federal Court of Pakistan after his resignation as Governor.

Justice Shahabuddin was not only an efficient and capable Judge; he was also an able administrator. Political activities that had remained suspended were resumed during his governorship. He tried to maintain neutrality in the domain of politics. Justice Shahabuddin led a simple and disciplined life, and was a deeply religious and hospitable person. Begum Shahabuddin actively participated in various women's organizations/ associations. Justice Shahabuddin died on 13 April 1971. Begum Shams Shahabuddin also died within hours of her husband's death. They had no children.

## **Justice Amir-ud-din Ahmad**

On the resignation of Justice Shahabuddin, Justice Amir-ud-din Ahmad, Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, was appointed Acting Governor of EB. Justice Amin Ahmad, a Judge of Dhaka HC administered the oath of office on 14

June 1955. He continued as Acting Governor till 9 March 1956.

Justice Amir-ud-din Ahmad came of a respectable family of West Bengal. In addition to English and Bengali, he knew Arabic and Persian, and was a scholar of Islamic History and Culture. He joined the government service on 1 April 1942 as Deputy Legal Remembrancer, Bengal. He was elevated to the Bench as an Additional Judge of Kolkata HC on 6 January 1947. On Partition, he migrated to Pakistan, and became Judge of Dhaka HC on 15 August 1947.

Justice Amir-ud-din Ahmad was a polite, hospitable, soft-spoken and deeply religious person. He was married but had no children.

### **Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq**

Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, popularly known as *Sher-e-Bangla*\* (Tiger of Bengal) assumed the office of Governor of the province on 9 March 1956. President Iskander Mirza removed him on 31 March 1958 on the advice of the Noon cabinet for allegedly overstepping his limits as a constitutional Governor. Huq had dismissed Ataur Rahman's Ministry that had not been defeated on the floor of the House, and had installed Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar as Chief Minister.

Fazlul Huq was born in his maternal uncle's house in the village of Saturia, Rajapur Upazila of Jhalokati District on 26 October 1873. He was the only son of Begum Syedunessa and Kazi Mohammed Wajid Ali, a well-to-do lawyer of Barisal. He passed B. A. Honours with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in 1894, and obtained his M. A. degree in Mathematics with distinction in 1895 from Presidency College. He also obtained B.L. degree from Ripon College in 1897.

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\* At the Lucknow session of the Muslim League held on 15 October 1937, Fazlul Huq was acclaimed as *Sher-e-Bangla*. The Session was presided over by Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

In 1900, Huq enrolled himself as an Advocate in the Kolkata HC. From 1906 till 1912 he served as a Deputy Magistrate. He entered BLC in 1913 as an elected member from Dhaka division. He was a member of the Bengal Legislature till 1947, except for two years from 1934 to 1936, when he was elected to the Indian Legislative Assembly. He was President of All-India Muslim League from 1916 to 1921. He was also a joint secretary of the Indian National Congress in 1917 and General Secretary in 1918-19. In 1924 he was appointed Education Minister of Bengal for about six months. In 1929 when *Nikhil Bangla Praja Samity* (All-Bengal Tenants Association) was founded to cater mainly to Muslim and scheduled caste peasants, A. K. Fazlul Huq became one of the vice-presidents of the Party. Huq was a delegate to the Round Table Conference held in London in 1930-31. In 1935, he was elected Mayor of Kolkata, the first Muslim ever to hold the post. Early in the same year, he became the President of the *Nikhil Bangla Praja Samity*. With the advent of the 1937 elections, radical elements of the party accepted him as their leader and renamed the party as *Krishak Praja Party* (KPP) in April 1936. In the elections of 1937, KPP returned as the third largest party just after Congress and Muslim League (ML secured 39 seats, KPP and the Independent candidates got 36 seats each). Huq was the Prime Minister of undivided Bengal from 1937 till 1943. During this period, he protected poor peasants from greedy moneylenders by enforcing the Bengal Agricultural Debtor's Act, 1936 (VII of 1936), which was then in abeyance and by establishing Debt Settlement Boards in all districts. He also enacted the Agricultural Debtor's (Second Amendment) Act, 1940 to cover all types of loans. For ameliorating the sufferings of the *ryots*, the Government passed the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1938 and the Bengal Tenancy (Second Amendment) Act, 1939. More impressive was the Bengal Moneylenders Act, 1940 (X of 1940) that made it obligatory for all persons in the money-lending business to obtain licenses and fixed the maximum rates of interest for loans. He was instrumental in the foundation of many educational institutions like Islamia College, Kolkata; Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata; Wajid Memorial Girl's High School and Chakhar College in Barisal. He was also the mover of the Lahore Resolution in the Lahore Session of the All-India Muslim League in 1940.

After Partition, he became Advocate General of the GOEB from 1947 to 1952. In July 1953, Huq founded the *Krishak Sramik Party*, which later on became one of the constituent parties of the United Front that inflicted a crushing defeat to the Muslim League in the election of 1954. Fazlul Huq became the Chief Minister of EB on 3 April 1954. The Ministry was, however, suspended by the central government after 57 days when it promulgated Governor's Rule in the province on 30 May 1954. Huq also served as Home Minister of the central government from August 1955 till he was appointed as Governor of EB in March 1956.

Huq was an immensely popular political personality. In 1913, he was elected to the BLC when he defeated his powerful rival Rai Bahadur Kumar Mahendra Nath Mitra. In 1937, he was elected from two constituencies. In the Perojpur north constituency, he secured 14,413 votes against 702 polled by his nearest rival; and at Perojpur constituency, he defeated Sir Khawja Nazimuddin in a straight fight by polling 13,742 votes to 6,308. His popularity remained undiminished even when he was isolated from the mainstream of Bengal politics. In 1946 elections when Muslim League secured 110 seats out of 117 reserved Muslim seats, his KPP got four seats, and Huq himself was elected from two seats. His being in the United Front helped the alliance gain a landslide victory in the 1954 elections. Sher-e-Bangla was chosen as the Chief Minister of EB even though his faction of the United Front secured fewer seats than the AL.

This great son of Bengal died on 27 April 1962 in Dhaka.

*Bangabhaban*

### **Muhammad Hamid Ali**

Muhammad Hamid Ali, Chief Secretary to the GOEP, assumed the office of Governor of the province on 1 April 1958. He was appointed Acting Governor in pursuance of the provisions of Article 70 of the Constitution. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of the HC of EP administered the oath of office.

Ali was born on 4 September 1906 and joined the ICS on 13 October

1931. He hailed from the district of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, India. After having served in various sub-divisions and districts, he was appointed Deputy Provincial Transport Commissioner and became ex-officio Deputy Secretary, Home and Provincial Rationing Authority. He became Joint Secretary, Chief Minister's Department on 28 January 1946 and Additional Secretary of the same Department on 14 November 1946. Hamid Ali became Secretary, Finance and Revenue Department of the GOEB on 15 August 1947. He served as Joint Secretary of Defence, GOP in the early 1950s. He remained Acting Governor till 3 May 1958. Ali rejoined as Chief Secretary to the GOEP when Mr. Sultanuddin Ahmad became the Governor.

### **Sultanuddin Ahmad**

Sultanuddin Ahmad was appointed Governor of EP on 26 April 1958, and he took charge on 3 May 1958. The Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, Justice Amin Ahmed administered the oath of office at the Governor House while the Home Secretary of the province Mr. A. Q. Ansari read out the letter of appointment. After the swearing in ceremony, Ataur Rahman Khan, the Chief Minister of EP introduced his Ministers to the Governor. Ahmad was removed from office on 10 October 1958 soon after the promulgation of Martial Law in Pakistan on 7 October.

Born in 1902 in Munshiganj, Sultanuddin Ahmad obtained his B. A. degree in 1922, M. A. in 1924, and B. L. in 1926 from DU. He joined the Dhaka Bar in 1927, and worked for ten years as part-time teacher of the Faculty of Law, DU. He was honorary Treasurer of the University, and also acted as its Vice-Chancellor for sometime. He was a member of the Inter-University Board of Pakistan from 1948 to 1952. Mr. Ahmad was prominently connected with the co-operative movement and served as Deputy Chairman of the Dhaka Central Co-operative Bank. He was also a Director of the State Bank of Pakistan. Ahmad took part in politics and

was a member of the Legislative Council of undivided Bengal from 1943 till 1947. He was appointed Ambassador to Burma in April 1952, and Ambassador to the People's Republic of China in April 1953. After his stint as Governor of EP, he was appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia in January 1959. Ahmad was a soft-spoken, hospitable and an accomplished gentleman.

## Zakir Husain

Zakir Husain was appointed Governor of EP on 10 October 1958. He took oath of office on 11 October and continued as Governor till 14 April 1960.

Zakir Husain was born on 2 November 1898 at Rangunia in the district of Chittagong. He studied at Chittagong Collegiate School, Aligarh University and in DU. He joined the Indian Police Service in 1923 and served in many districts of Bengal. He received the Indian Police Medal in 1940. Zakir Husain was appointed Deputy Inspector General of the Presidency Division on 1 April 1947. After independence, he became the first Inspector General of Police of EB. He was a recipient of the Quaid-e-Azam Police Medal. In 1952, he became Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission. He retired from government service in 1957.

During his governorship which spanned over nearly one and half years, he tried his best to make Basic Democracy popular in EP and worked hard in the February 1960 elections for Ayub Khan's victory. The price of essential items came down and smuggling was also checked. However, since he was the representative of a Martial Law regime, he became soon unpopular.

Zakir Husain lived a disciplined but simple life and was hardworking and punctual. It is said that he never kept work pending for the next day. He became Pakistan's Home Minister in 1960 and held this position till 1962. Mr. Husain was married and had three sons and three daughters.

## **Lt. General Mohammad Azam Khan**

Lt. General Mohammad Azam Khan, H. Q. A., joined as Governor of EP on 15 April 1960. Chief Secretary of the GOEP M. Ajfar read the letter of appointment of the President, and Chief Justice of Dhaka HC Justice M. A. Ishpahani conducted the oath of office.

Khan was born in Mothora, a village near Peshawar in 1909 and was brought up in traditional Pathan ways of life. He was educated at the Military College, Dehra Dun, and Royal Military College, Sandhurst and Commissioned in 1929. He saw active military service during the Second World War in Arakan, Versova and Maud Island. At the time of independence, Azam Khan was serving as Assistant Quarter Master General. Given command of a Brigade in January 1948 and promoted to the rank of Major General in 1950, he directed operations during the Punjab floods of 1950 and the disturbances in Lahore during March 1953. He was promoted to Lt. General in May 1954. He was appointed a Minister of Pakistan on 28 October 1958. As the senior most member of the presidential cabinet he held various portfolios including Food and Agriculture; Works, Irrigation and Power; Housing, Water and Water Resources. As Minister, he was able to contribute significantly in solving the long standing *Mohajer* problem and the rehabilitation of refugees at Korangi Colony.

While Governor of EP, Azam Khan rendered commendable service during the two great tidal bores and cyclones of 1960 that devastated the coastal districts. He worked day and night for over one and a half months, and personally supervised the distribution of relief and reconstruction work. Azam Khan introduced 'East Pakistan Week' to patronize games and sports, cultural activities and exhibition of agricultural and industrial products. During his governorship, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the King and Queen of Thailand, the Swedish Prime Minister, the Malaysian King and Queen, among others, visited EP. However, differences of opinion soon emerged with Ayub Khan in matters like the introduction of Basic Democracy, and on certain other issues such as the transfer of the

Chief Secretary Syed Hashim Raza without his prior knowledge and the arrest of H. S. Suhrawardy. The President accepted his resignation and he left Dhaka on 10 May 1962.

Khan as Governor showed great energy, zeal, initiative, enthusiasm, and drive. In just over two years, he became so popular that he came to be affectionately called "*Azam Chacha*". Nearly one hundred thousand people turned up at a civic farewell at the Dhaka Stadium on 9 May. Braving a burning sun and threat of rain, they rendered the sky with full-throated shouts of "*Azam Khan Zindabad*". Earlier, on 7 May the doors of the Governor's House were thrown open to visitors.

### **Syed Hashim Raza**

Syed Hashim Raza, Chief Secretary to the GOEP was sworn in as Acting Governor of EP on 1 July 1961. He was Acting Governor of the province during the absence of General Azam Khan's official visit to West Germany. He remained in office till 5 August 1961.

Syed Hashim Raza was born on 16 February 1910 at Una in Uttar Pradesh, India. He was the son of Justice Syed Mohammad Raza. He obtained his M. A. in Political Science in 1932 from Lucknow. Later he studied in Oxford. He joined the ICS in 1934. Hashim Raza wrote several Urdu *ghazals* and *nazms* as well as Shia elegies (*nauhay*). He authored a book titled *Hamari Mazilain* (Our Destination). He served as the Secretary of the Education, Health and Local Self - Government Ministry of Sind in the early 1950s. For his meritorious services to Pakistan, he was awarded the title S.Q.A. and S. Pk.

Hashim Raza passed away in Karachi on 30 September 2003 at the age of 93. He left behind his wife, Salma Raza, two sons and two daughters.

### **Ghulam Faruque**

Ghulam Faruque was sworn in as Governor of EP on 11 May 1962. The

Chief Justice of EP, Mr. Justice Imam Hossain Choudhury administered the oath of office.

Faruque was born on 7 October 1899 at Midnapore. Son of Mir Aslam Khan of Peshawar district, he graduated from MAO College, Aligarh. He joined the Bengal Nagpur Railway (BNR) as Assistant Traffic Superintendent in 1921 and served as Transport Advisory Officer, Railway Board, 1940-42; Controller of Coal Distribution, 1942-46; Transport Manager, BNR, 1946; Chief Operating Superintendent, East India Railway (EIR), 1946; and General Manager, EIR, 1946-48. He was Secretary, Ministry of Industries, GOP, 1948-49; Chairman, Pakistan Jute Board and Cotton Board, 1949-52; Chairman of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), 1952-58; and Chairman, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) from 1958 till his appointment as Governor of EP.

Ghulam Faruque was a dynamic bureaucrat. In administrative jobs requiring planning, initiative, organization and skill, few could equal him. But he was a novice in the field of politics. During his governorship, there was considerable student unrest against the controversial recommendations of the Commission on National Education (1959), widely known as the Sharif Commission. The report, among other things, led to repeal of the older University Acts, and enactment of a new set of ordinances in 1961. The movement to abolish the new 1962 constitution gathered momentum at this time. Unable to cope with the political problems of EP, he resigned from office in October 1962.

### **Abdul Monem Khan**

Abdul Monem Khan took oath of office as Governor of EP on 28 October 1962. He was by far the longest serving Governor of the province, having been in the post till 23 March 1969.

Son of Moulavi Kamar Ali Khan and Nasima Khatun, Khan was born on

28 July 1899 at Humayunpur village of Bajitpur Upazila in the district of Kishorganj. He matriculated from Mymensingh Zilla School in 1916 and graduated in 1920 from Dhaka College. He obtained his B.L. degree from Kolkata University in 1922 and from DU in 1924. He joined Mymensingh district Bar in 1927. In 1935, he became the founder secretary of Mymensingh District Muslim League. He was elected secretary of the District Muslim League once again in 1947 and continued in this position till 1955. He was also the Chairman of Mymensingh District School Board from 1946 to 1954. In 1947, he was elected a member of the EP Muslim League Working Committee and a Councillor of the Pakistan Muslim League. He was elected a member of the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. He lost by a wide margin of votes in the 1954 Provincial Assembly elections. However, he returned unopposed as a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan in 1962. Ayub Khan made him Minister for Health, Labour and Social Welfare and after a couple of months appointed him Governor of EP.

Monem Khan, a loyal protégé of President Ayub Khan, tried his best to popularise the concept of Basic Democracy in EP. He laboured hard to get Ayub Khan elected as President of Pakistan in 1965 against the Combined Opposition Party candidate, Fatema Jinnah. He rendered commendable services during the devastating tidal wave of Chittagong in 1963 and again during the aftermath of the cyclone of 1965. He was instrumental in the establishment of Jahangirnagar University. During his term of office, the Chittagong University, the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research (present BSMMU) and a number of medical colleges were also established. In 1967, Monem Khan converted *Dighapatia Rajbari* into *Uttara Governor House*. He was decorated for his services to the nation with the title of H. Pk. His tenure of office was, however, marked by widespread student unrest and political agitation as he was considered a puppet of Ayub Khan. During the war of liberation, freedom fighters assassinated him on 13 October 1971.

### **Professor Dr. Mirza Nurul Huda**

Dr. Mirza Nurul Huda was sworn in as Governor of EP on 23 March 1969.

Justice B. A. Siddiqy, Chief Justice of East Pakistan HC conducted the oath of office. With the promulgation of Martial Law throughout Pakistan and the abrogation of the constitution in the evening of 25 March, Dr. Huda's tenure of governorship came to an abrupt end. During the barely sixty hours of his tenure of office, he had brought certain changes of style as reflected by his visits to the Shahid Minar and the graves of the three national leaders. He also opened out to the public the broad road in front of the Governor's House, and silenced the siren heralding the approach of the Governor's motorcade. He reintroduced the publication of Governor House circulars announcing his appointments and visitors.

Nurul Huda was born on 1 August 1919 in village Jangalia of Tangail. He did his B. A. (Honours) and M. A. from DU in Economics, standing first in the first class in both the examinations in 1940 and 1941 respectively. He joined the Bengal Civil Service in 1944. He left the service and went abroad for higher studies in 1947 and obtained his Ph. D. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, New York in 1949. In the same year, he joined DU as Reader in Economics, and became Professor in 1960. Dr. Huda was a member of the Taxation Enquiry Committee and Credit Enquiry Committee and Drafting Committee of the First and Second Five Year Plans of Pakistan. He was a member of the Planning Commission of Pakistan, 1962-65, President of Pakistan Economic Association (1965), and Minister for Finance and Planning of the GOEP from 1965 till 1969. He was awarded Hilal-i-Khidmat in 1968.

After his governorship, he rejoined DU as Professor. He was appointed member of the Council of Advisors to President Justice A. M. Sayem in November 1975 and was in-charge of the Ministries of Commerce and Planning. He also held the additional charge of the Ministry of Finance for sometime. Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman appointed him Finance Minister in 1979 and Advisor to the President in early 1980. He was appointed Vice-President of the Republic on 24 November 1981 by President Justice Abdus Sattar and continued as such till 23 March 1982.

Dr. Huda had about twenty research publications to his credit. He also

edited the book titled *The Test of Time: My Life and Days* written by Tamizuddin Khan.

Dr. M. N. Huda expired on 22 December 1991 in Dhaka.

## Major General Muzaffar-ud-din

On the evening of 25 March 1969, President Ayub Khan stepped down from power. General A. M. Yahya Khan, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, took over as supreme commander of the country's defence forces and proclaimed martial law and abrogated the constitution of the country. He became the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA), and divided the country into two administrative zones- West Pakistan (Zone 'A') and East Pakistan (Zone 'B'). Major General Muzaffar-ud-din, S. Pk. who was the GOC of the 14 Division, became Martial Law Administrator (MLA), Zone 'B'. On 8 April 1969, Yahya Khan issued an order directing that the MLAs of Zone 'A' and 'B' would perform the functions and powers of the Governors of West and East Pakistan respectively.\* Thus Major General Muzaffar-ud-din became MLA and also exercised the powers and functions of Governor of EP till 23 August 1969 when Lt. General Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan, S. Pk. replaced him. Muzaffar-ud-din became GOC of 14 Division once again and after two months left EP to become the Chairman of Agricultural Development Corporation of West Pakistan.

Major General Muzaffar-ud-din on becoming MLA of Zone 'B' established his headquarters in Governor's House on 30 March 1969. The privilege of meeting the Governor without prior appointment by the Chief Secretary of EP was discontinued during this time. The serving of alcohol in Bangabhaban that remained prohibited since Monem Khan's time was once again introduced.

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\* Here it may be mentioned that earlier on 31 March 1969, Yahya Khan, CMLA, also assumed the office of President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with retrospective effect from the night of 25 March 1969.

## **Lt. General Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan**

The President and CMLA appointed Lt. General Sahabzada M Yaqub Khan, S. Pk. as MLA, Zone 'B' in place of Major General Muzaffar-ud-din, S. Pk. with effect from 23 August 1969. As MLA of Zone 'B', he exercised the powers and functions of the Governor of EP. However, a notification issued by the cabinet secretariat on 1 September 1969 cancelled the order of 8 April 1969\* and directed MLAs to refrain from performing the functions of Governor in their respective provinces with immediate effect. Lt. General Yaqub Khan remained MLA, Zone 'B' until Vice Admiral S. M. Ahsan took over as the new Governor of EP on 1 September 1969. General Yaqub Khan was made the "head of civil administration in the province" in place of Vice Admiral Ahsan with effect from 1 March 1971 until the arrival of Lt. General Tikka Khan on 7 March 1971. He left EP on 10 March.

Lt. General Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was unusual in the military leadership of Pakistan. He did not believe in the use of brute force to settle political disputes in EP.

## **Vice Admiral Syed Mohammad Ahsan**

Vice Admiral Syed Mohammad Ahsan was sworn in as the Governor of EP on 1 September 1969 evening at the Durbar Hall of the Governor House. Mr. Justice Salahuddin, a senior judge of Dhaka HC, administered the oath of office. Chief Secretary S. M. Shafiu Azam read out the commission of appointment. Among others who witnessed the ceremony were Lt. General Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, MLA, Zone 'B' and Major General Muzaffar-ud-din, GOC, 14 Division.

Born in Hyderabad, India in December 1920, Vice Admiral Ahsan was educated at the Nizam's College. He was selected for the Royal Indian Navy in 1938 and had his naval training in UK from 1938 to 1940. He saw action in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean during World War II. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for taking part in operations in Arakan. Later on, he specialized in Signals in the UK and was instructor at a technical school in Liverpool, England. Ahsan was

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\* Regarding 8 April 1969 order, see profile of Major General Muzaffar-ud-din

ADC to the Viceroy of India in 1946-47 and to Jinnah after independence. He served as Naval Attaché at Washington in 1955-56 and as Chief of Staff to the C-in-C, Navy in 1959-60. He served both as Deputy Chief Military Planning Officer, SEATO at Bangkok and as Chief Military Planning Officer. He was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in 1962. In 1964 he was appointed Chairman of the Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA), EP. In October 1966, Ahsan was appointed C-in-C of the Pakistan Navy and in 1967 promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral. After the promulgation of Martial Law on 25 March 1969, he was appointed Deputy CMLA and member of the President's Council of Advisors.

Vice Admiral Ahsan was awarded HQA; S. Pk.; SQA in 1968, 1967 and 1958 respectively.

S.M. Ahsan remained Governor of EP until 1 March 1971. Two significant events took place during his governorship. First, elections were held for the National and Provincial Assembly. Second, during Ahsan's governorship there was a devastating cyclone and tidal wave in the coastal areas of EP on 12 November 1970. No less than six hundred thousand human lives were lost as a result of this calamity. The Pakistani authorities, however, showed their indifference and insensitivity to human suffering.

S. M. Ahsan left office on 1 March 1971. He was in favour of a quick and peaceful resolution to EP's political aspirations.

### **Lt. General Tikka Khan**

The President and CMLA General Yahya Khan appointed Lt. General Tikka Khan, S. Pk., Governor of EP on 6 March 1971. Tikka Khan arrived in Dhaka in the afternoon of 7 March, and was received at the airport, among others, by Lt. General Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, MLA, Zone 'B'. However, the Chief Justice of the East Pakistan HC, Justice B. A. Siddiky, S. Pk. declined to administer Tikka Khan the oath of office as Governor. He was then appointed MLA, Zone 'B' with effect from 7 March

(officially announced so on 9 March). Tikka Khan also continued to discharge the responsibilities of the head of civil administration of EP even though he took formal oath of office as Governor on 9 April 1971. This time Justice B. A. Siddiky administered the oath of office to Tikka Khan. From 9 April, Tikka Khan was Governor as well as MLA Zone 'B'. Soon after the oath taking ceremony, Tikka Khan moved to Governor's House from the cantonment. He remained Governor till 3 September 1971.

The military crackdown on the Bengali population ('Operation Search Light') on the night of 25 March 1971 was carried out under the overall command of General Tikka Khan. Prominent among generals who collaborated in the genocide were Major General Rao Farman Ali and Brig. Arbab in Dhaka and its suburbs; and Major General Khadim Hussain Raja in the rest of the province.

Tikka Khan was born in 1915 at Jochha Mamdot, a village in tehsil Kahuta of Rawalpindi district. He was commissioned as an artillery officer in 1940 from the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. During World War II, he served in Burma and in the Sahara. He graduated from the Command and Staff College, Quetta in 1949. He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier in 1955, became Major General in 1962, and Lt. General in early 1969. On his return to West Pakistan in September 1971, he was made a Corps Commander. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto further elevated him to the rank of General and made him the Army Chief in March 1972. After his retirement from the army in 1974, he joined the Pakistan People's Party in 1976. He was appointed Defence Minister of Pakistan, and later on the Governor of the Punjab province in 1988.

Tikka Khan died on 28 March 2002.

### **Dr. Abdul Motaleb Malik**

President and CMLA General Yahya Khan appointed Dr. A. M. Malik, HQA, as Governor of EP on 31 August. He took oath of office on 3 September 1971. The Chief Justice of Dhaka HC, Justice B. A. Siddiky, S.Pk,

administered the oath of office. Those who attended the swearing in ceremony included Abdul Monem Khan, Sultanuddin Ahmad, Justice Abdul Jabbar Khan, Fazlul Qauder Choudhury, Khan A. Sabur, Professor Ghulam Azam, Syed Azizul Huq, Yousuf Ali Choudhury (Mohon Mia), and Pir Mohsinuddin (Dudu Mia).

Born in 1905 at Chuadanga, Dr. Malik was an ophthalmic surgeon by profession. He became associated with the trade union movement in undivided Bengal. He was appointed Minister for Minorities Affairs in the cabinet of Liaqat Ali Khan in 1949. He also held the portfolio of Works, Health and Labour of the GOP until July 1955. In that year (1955), he was appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to Switzerland, Yugoslavia and Austria. He was Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, 1958-61, to Philippines, 1961-65; and High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia and New Zealand, 1965-66. He retired from diplomatic post in 1967. In August 1969, Dr. Malik was inducted as Pakistan's Minister for Health, Labour, Works and Social Welfare and continued to hold office till February 1971. In July 1971, he was appointed Special Assistant for displaced persons with a view to supervising and coordinating relief and rehabilitation.

During his period of governorship, the War of Liberation gained grounds as a result of greater back up support provided by India to our freedom fighters, both regular and *Mukti Bahini*. On 3 December 1971, the war between the allied forces and Pakistan started. The liberation army made rapid gains and advanced towards Dhaka from all sides. Apprehending the defeat, Pakistanis with the assistance of *Razakars*, *Al-Badrs* and other civilian collaborators picked up many Bengali intellectuals on 13 and 14 December and brutally murdered them. Dr. A. M. Malik along with his cabinet resigned on 14 December and sought refuge in Hotel Intercontinental, seeking the protection of the Red Cross flag.

## **Lt. General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi**

Lt. General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, H. J.; S. Pk.; S. K.; M. C.; Commander, Eastern Command, and MLA, Zone 'B' (with effect from

3 September 1971) was the supreme authority of Pakistan in its eastern wing during the last 48 hours of enemy occupation. The onslaught of the advancing liberation forces from all sides towards Dhaka and the pounding of the Indian Air Force left no room for General Niazi to manoeuvre. He was compelled to sign the Instrument of Surrender at 1701 hours BST on 16 December 1971 at the Ramna Race Course (now Suhrawardy Uddyan). As a symbol of surrender, Niazi handed over his revolver to Lt. General Jagjit Singh Aurora, GOC in Chief, India and Bangladesh Forces in the Eastern Theatre.

Lt. General A. A. K. Niazi was born in 1915 in Mianwali, Punjab. He joined the British Indian Army in 1942 and the Pakistan Army in 1947. In April 1971, Niazi was sent to erstwhile EP as Commander, Eastern Command. Upon his return from captivity in 1974, he was held in detention by the army for about a year. After his retirement from public life, he published a memoir titled *Betrayal of East Pakistan* in August 1998 in which he outlined his version of events that led to the dismemberment of Pakistan.

General Niazi died in Lahore on 2 February 2004 at the age of 89.

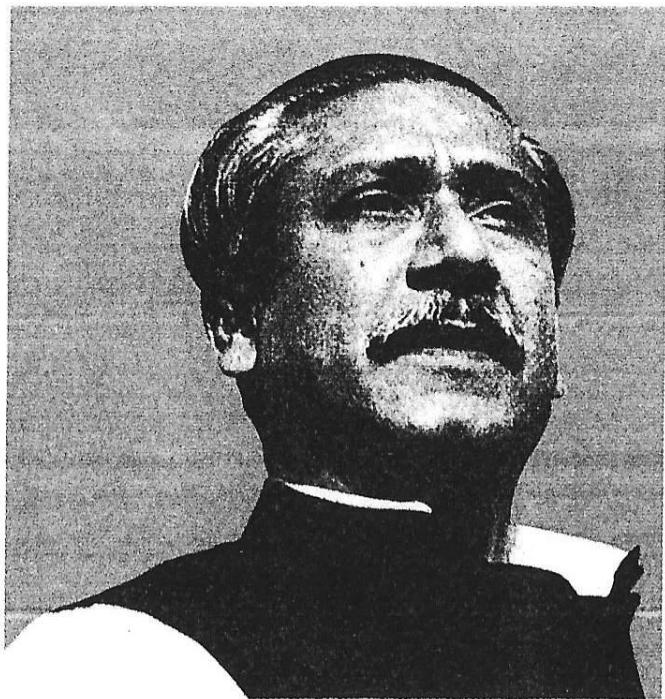
## Presidents and Acting Presidents of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1971- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

Bangabandhu\* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was elected President of the provisional Mujibnagar government through a Proclamation of Independence issued on 10 April 1971. The formal inauguration ceremony, however, took place at the mango grove of village Baidyanathtol

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\* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was given the title of "Bangabandhu" on 23 February 1969 at a people's reception arranged in his honour at the Ramna Race Course by the Central Students' Action Committee.

(renamed Mujibnagar) under the present Meherpur district on 17 April 1971. Mujib remained President in absentia till his return to Bangladesh from Pakistan (where he was interned) on 10 January 1972. On 12 January 1972, he stepped down from the office of President to become the Prime Minister of the country. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman once again became President on 25 January 1975 with the amendment of the Constitution from parliamentary to presidential form of government.



Sheikh  
Mujibur  
Rahman

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had an eventful political career. Born on 17 March 1920 at village Tungipara under Gopalganj sub-division (now a district), he graduated from Islamia College, Kolkata in 1947. In 1946, he was the general secretary of the Islamia College Student's Union. After the creation of Pakistan, he took part in the Language Movement and suffered imprisonment. Sheikh Mujib was elected one of the joint secretaries of the EP Awami Muslim League in 1949. From 1953 till 1966, he held the post of General Secretary of EP Awami League. In 1954 he was elected a member of the EB Legislative Assembly and was appointed a Minister of the United Front Government (the youngest Minister of the Huq Government). In 1955, he was elected member of the second Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. He was again appointed a Minister when AL formed the provincial cabinet under Ataur Rahman in 1956. But he voluntarily left the cabinet in July 1957 to reorganize his party.

On the proclamation of Martial Law by General Ayub Khan in October 1958, Mujib was imprisoned for fourteen months, and again suffered imprisonment in 1962. He placed his historic Six Point programme at a

political conference in Lahore in February 1966. This programme called for a federal state structure for Pakistan and full autonomy for EP with a parliamentary democratic system. Mujib became President of Awami League in March 1966. However, he was arrested under the Defence of Pakistan Rules on 8 May 1966, and in 1968 charged with sedition to make EP independent with the help of India. The case is known as the Agartola Conspiracy Case. In the face of mass upsurge, President Ayub Khan was compelled to withdraw the case in February 1969 and release Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In the general elections to the National Assembly that took place in 1970 and in January 1971, AL won an absolute majority. On 7 March, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed a mammoth public meeting at the then Ramna Racecourse and delivered a historic address. In his speech, he advised the Pakistani authorities to immediately withdraw Martial Law, send the military personnel to barracks, and transfer power to the elected representatives of the people. He also alerted the Bengalis to remain vigilant and be prepared for independence struggle, if need be. But the West Pakistani vested interest groups were determined not to hand over power to Mujib and conspired to sabotage the results of the polls. When talks in March 1971 between the AL and Pakistani authorities failed to bring fruitful results, genocide was launched on the midnight of 25 March 1971. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested and taken to Pakistan as a prisoner. A liberation war ensued that continued for nine months leading to the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state on 16 December 1971. Although Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in Pakistan jail during the liberation war, he remained the main inspiration throughout. After release from prison, he arrived in Dhaka via London and India and assumed Presidency on 10 January 1972.

Sheikh Mujib was at the helm of affairs after independence but took control of a country where Indian troops were still stationed. He convinced Indian authorities to withdraw their troops from Bangladesh, which they did by 15 March 1972. The Government of Sheikh Mujib repatriated the stranded Bangladeshis from Pakistan. A Constitution for the country was also framed within a record time of one year (which came into effect from 16 December 1972). The Government restored the ruptured communication system and cleared the ports of mines and sunken vessels.

The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation was established in February 1972 in view of the importance of inland water and overseas communication. By the Islamic Foundation Act of March 1975, the Baitul Mukarram Society and the Islamic Academy were integrated into one organization. For greater integration and development of the country, Sheikh Mujib declared general amnesty to collaborators (earlier the Bangladesh Collaborators Special Tribunal Order of 24 January 1972 decided to try them) on 16 December 1973. In the sphere of foreign affairs, Bangladesh obtained membership of the Commonwealth on 18 April 1972, that of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1973, of the United Nations and also that of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in 1974.

However, Sheikh Mujib failed to check price spiral and contain law and order situation, black marketing, hoarding and rampant corruption. The cumulative result was famine in which thousands of people perished. He also changed the Constitution from the parliamentary to the presidential system, formed one party Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL) in February 1975 for the whole country, drastically curbed the fundamental political and civil liberties of the people and gagged the press. On 15 August 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in a military coup along with most members of his family at his Dhanmondi residence.\* His two daughters, however, survived. The elder, Sheikh Hasina is presently the Leader of the Opposition in the JS and a former Prime Minister of the country (1996-2001).

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was posthumously awarded the highest national honour- the *Swadhinata Puraskar* (Independence Award) in 2003. The award was given to this great nationalist leader for his contribution and role in the pre-independence struggle for realizing the right to self-determination in the fight against Pakistani rule, exploitation and repression and for establishing a constitutional government in the post-independence war ravaged country.

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\* Though on 25 January 1975, Gonobhavan was declared as the official residence of the new President instead of Bangabhaban, Mujib used to spend the nights at his own residence in Dhanmondi.

## Syed Nazrul Islam

In the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Vice President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Syed Nazrul Islam acted as President from 17 April 1971 till 10 January 1972, i.e., till the return of Bangabandhu from Pakistan after the liberation of the country. It was Syed Nazrul Islam's unique privilege to usher the infant state of Bangladesh into the comity of nations. He was at the helm of affairs throughout the liberation struggle that culminated in the emergence of Bangladesh on 16 December 1971. As acting President of the Republic, he presided over the first Cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban on 23 December 1971\*. He also received a number of dignitaries at Bangabhaban before the return of Sheikh Mujib from Pakistan.



◀  
Syed  
Nazrul Islam

Born in 1925 at Jasodal Dampara village in Kishorganj sadar upazila, Syed Nazrul Islam earned his M. A. degree in History in 1947 and LL. B. in 1953 from DU. He was vice president of Salimullah Muslim Hall Union (1946-47) and athletic secretary of the DU Central Students Union. He competed successfully in the central superior service examination in 1949 and got Taxation Service. After serving for a while in a government job, he joined A. M. College, Mymensingh as a teacher of history. However, he left his college job for politics in 1951. He actively participated in the historic Language Movement. He was elected President of Mymensingh

\* In the absence of official documents, it is difficult to ascertain as to how 'Bangabhaban' derived its name. Newspaper reports mentioned the present President's office cum residence as "Bangabhaban" on 24 December 1971 and as "Bangabhaban" on 31 December 1971 and also on 7 January 1972. See, for example, *Bangladesh Observer*, 24 December 1971; *Ibid*, 31 December 1971; *Ibid*, 7 January 1972.

district AL in 1957 and held the post till 1972. Nazrul was senior vice-president of the central committee of AL from 1964-72, and was acting President of AL from 1966-69 following the confinement of Sheikh Mujib during the Six Point Movement. Nazrul Islam was elected to the National Assembly from Mymensingh in 1970 and became Deputy Leader of the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP). He became a member of the first cabinet of Mujib and held the charge of the Industries Ministry. Nazrul was elected unopposed to the JS from Mymensingh in 1973 and was again made Deputy Leader of ALPP in the Sangshad. With the introduction of one party BAKSAL rule in 1975, he was made Vice President of the Republic. Nazrul Islam was arrested on 23 August 1975 after Mujib's assassination. Confined in Dhaka central jail, he was also assassinated on 3 November 1975.

### **Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury**

The Chief Justice of the HC of Bangladesh, Justice A.S.M. Sayem, swore in Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury as President of the Republic of Bangladesh on 12 January 1972. Justice Chowdhury's first official function was to administer the oath of office to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and eleven other members of his Cabinet. Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury was re-elected the President of Bangladesh on 10 April 1973 and continued to hold the office of President till 24 December 1973.



◀  
Justice  
Abu Sayeed  
Chowdhury

Son of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, a former Speaker of EP Provincial Assembly, Abu Sayeed was born on 31 January 1921 in an illustrious family of Nagbari in Tangail. He graduated from Presidency College in 1940, and also obtained his M. A. and B. L. degrees from the Calcutta University. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1947. Barrister Chowdhury became Advocate General of EP in 1960; was a member of the Constitution Commission, 1960-61. He became Judge, Dhaka HC, 1961-72, Chairman of the Central Board for the Development of Bengali, 1963-68. He was also Vice - Chancellor of DU in addition to his own duties as Judge from November 1969 till 12 January 1972. In 1971, he was appointed Special Envoy of Bangladesh Government for Overseas and the UN and made significant contribution in mobilizing world public opinion in favour of the Liberation Struggle. On his resignation as President of the Republic in December 1973, Justice Chowdhury was appointed Special Envoy for external relations with the rank of a Minister. He was included as a member of Mujib's Cabinet on 8 August 1975. After Shiekh Mujib's assassination, Abu Sayeed Chowdhury became Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Cabinet of President Mustaque Ahmad. In 1978, Justice Chowdhury was elected a member of the UN sub-committee on the Prevention of Discrimination on Minorities, and in 1985 became Chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Justice Chowdhury authored a valuable book entitled *Probasey Muktijuddher Dingooli* (1990). He married Begum Khurshida Chowdhury in 1948. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. *Ans. Choudhury  
on 11 July 2004 at the age of 80*  
Justice Chowdhury died on 2 August 1987 in London.

## **Mohammad Mohammadullah**

After the resignation of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury in December 1973, Mohammad Mohammadullah became the Acting President of the Republic on 24 December 1973. He was elected President on 24 January 1974 and took oath of office as President of the Republic on 27 January 1974. The Chief Justice of Bangladesh SC, Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, administered the oath of office at Bangabhaban. He remained President till 25 January 1975.

Mohammadullah was born on 21 October 1921 at village Saicha under Raipur Upazila in the district of Lakshmipur. His father Munshi Abdul Wahab was a social worker. Mohammadullah graduated with honours in History from the DU in 1943, and obtained LL. B. degree from Ripon College, Kolkata and again from DU in the same year (1948). He joined the Dhaka Bar in 1950 and the High Court Bar in 1964.

Mohammadullah was actively associated with AL politics from 1950. He was elected office secretary of EP Awami Muslim League in 1953 and held the same position for twenty years till 1972. He took active part in the Six Point Movement in 1966 for which he was jailed for a long time. Mohammadullah was elected to the EP Provincial Assembly on the AL ticket in 1970. He was political advisor to the Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam during the War of Liberation in 1971. After independence, he was elected Deputy Speaker of the Bangladesh Constituent Assembly (Ganoparishad) on 10 April 1972. In the same year when Speaker Shah Abdul Hamid died, he became the acting Speaker. Later, he was elected Speaker on 12 November 1972. In 1973, he was elected to the JS from the Raipur-Lakshmipur constituency, and was re-elected Speaker of the House. After his resignation as President in January 1975, he was made Minister of Land Administration and Land Reforms in the Cabinet of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 26 January 1975. He was appointed Vice President of the Republic after Mujib's assassination.

Mohammadullah left AL and joined the BNP in 1980. President Abdus Sattar appointed him Vice President in March 1982 but the tenure lasted



◀  
Mohammad  
Mohammadullah

barely twenty-four hours before General Ershad took over the reigns of administration of the country. Mohammadullah was elected a member of the JS once again in 1991 on BNP ticket but left the party to rejoin the AL before the 1996 JS elections.

It was during Mohammadullah's tenure of Presidency that the Fourth Constitutional Amendment Bill that changed the form of the country's government from parliamentary to presidential system was passed.

Mohammadullah died on 11 November 1999 at the age of 78. He left behind his wife, three sons and two daughters. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

### **Khandker Mustaque Ahmad**

Khandker Mustaque Ahmad assumed the office of President of the Republic after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 15 August 1975. He also became the CMLA\*. Khandker Mustaque was removed from office on 6 November 1975. During the brief period that he was in office, four political leaders, namely; Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain Mansur Ali and A. H. M. Qamaruzzaman, were brutally murdered inside the Dhaka central jail on 3 November 1975. He promulgated the Indemnity Ordinance, replaced "Jai Bangla" slogan with "Bangladesh Zindabad" and changed the name of "Bangladesh Betar" to "Radio Bangladesh".

Born in 1919 at village Doshpara of Daudkandi in Comilla district, he was the fourth son of Alhaj Hazrat Khandker Kabiruddin Ahmed and Begum Rabeya. He obtained LL. B. degree from DU. He actively participated in the Pakistan Movement and was jailed in 1946. He was also one of the

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\* Khandker Mustaque Ahmad in a proclamation dated 20 August, 1975 said, "I placed on the morning of the 15th August, 1975 the whole of Bangladesh under Martial Law by a declaration broadcast from all stations of Radio Bangladesh." See *The Bangladesh Times*, August 21, 1975, p.1. Earlier on 15 August the Chiefs of Three Services in separate broadcast over the Radio declared their allegiance to the new Government headed by Mustaque. See *The Bangladesh Observer*, 16 August 1975.

vanguards of the Language Movement and suffered imprisonment in 1952. A founder joint secretary of Awami Muslim League, he was elected to the EBLA in 1954. On the imposition of Governor's Rule, he was imprisoned. Upon promulgation of Martial Law in October 1958, he was again imprisoned. He toured the country extensively to form public opinion in favour of the Six Point programme formulated by AL in 1966. He was detained for three years and was released from prison in 1969. He played a pioneering role in the unseating of Ayub Khan in 1969. Mustaque Ahmad, who was then a vice president of AL, was elected a member of the Pakistan National Assembly in 1970. During the liberation war, he was the Foreign Minister and Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs of the GOB at Mujibnagar. Mustaque was re-elected a member of JS from Daudkandi in 1973. He remained a Minister of the Republic from 1972 till the assassination of Sheikh Mujib. In 1976, he founded the Democratic League. In the same year, he was convicted in two corruption cases and was imprisoned for a term of five years.\* Mustaque was released from prison on 26 March 1980. He remained the Chairman of the National Democratic Alliance till his death on 5 March 1996. He was buried at his family graveyard in Daudkandi. Khandker Mustaque has left behind one son and two daughters.



◀  
Khandker  
Mustaque  
Ahmad

### Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem

Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem became President and CMLA on

\* Khandker Mustaque Ahmad was the first deposed President of Bangladesh to undergo imprisonment.

6 November 1975. He was CMLA till 29 November 1976 and President of the Republic till 21 April 1977. He resigned on health grounds but before leaving office appointed Lt. General Ziaur Rahman as his successor.

Born in 1916 at Rangpur, he studied at Carmichael College, Rangpur; Presidency College and at the University Law College, Kolkata from where he earned his law degree. He became an Advocate in the Kolkata HC in 1944, and in 1947 joined the Dhaka HC Bar as a junior of A. K.

Fazlul Huq. He was secretary and vice president of the HC Bar Association for several terms. He was enrolled as an Advocate of the Federal Court of Pakistan in 1951 and as a senior Advocate of the SC of Pakistan in 1959. Sayem was elevated to the HC Bench of Dhaka as an Additional Judge in 1962. He was appointed a member of the Commission of Enquiry to examine causes of exodus and eviction of minorities in 1967 and was also appointed member of the second Commission of Enquiry formed for the same purpose. Justice Sayem was a member of the Delimitation Commission of 1970, which worked for delimitation of constituencies. He was appointed a member of the Election Commission that conducted elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies in 1970-71.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman swore in Justice Sayem as the first Chief Justice of the HC of Bangladesh on 12 January 1972. He became the Chief Justice of the SC of Bangladesh on 17 December 1972 and remained in this position till he became the President and CMLA. Justice Sayem authored a book entitled *At Bangabhaban: Last Phase*, which was published in 1988. He died on 8 July 1997 at the age of 81.



Justice  
Abu Sadat  
Mohammad  
Sayem

## Lt. General Ziaur Rahman

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was born at village Bagmari in the district of Bogra on 19 January 1936. He was the second son of Mansur Rahman and Jahanara Khatun. Zia studied at Hare School, Kolkata, and with the transfer of his father to Karachi took admission in Academy School from where he passed his matriculation examination. While studying at D. J. College, Zia joined the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in 1953 as a cadet. He was commissioned in 1955. In the army, he received commando training, became a paratrooper and received training in a special intelligence course. He fought valiantly as a company commander in the Khemkaran sector in 1965 Indo-Pak War and in 1966 was made an Instructor at the PMA, Kakul. In the same year, he joined the Staff College, Quetta. Towards the end of 1969, he was sent to West Germany for training and later on spent a few months with the British Army. In October 1970, Major Zia was transferred to the newly raised 8th EB Regiment at Chittagong. Following the crackdown on unarmed civilians on the midnight of 25 March 1971, he led the revolt against the Pakistan Army and later announced the historic declaration of independence first on his own behalf, and afterwards on behalf of the elected leader of the country Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the Kalurghat radio station. Zia became a sector commander of the liberation forces in April 1971 and raised the first Brigade of the Bangladesh Army at Raumari (in Kurigram district) with the help of First, Second and Eighth Bengal Regiment Jawans. The Brigade came to be known as 'Z' force. Zia was promoted to



Lt. General  
Ziaur  
Rahman

the rank of Lt. Col. in the same month. For distinguished services in the War, Zia was decorated with the gallantry award "Bir Uttam".

After liberation of the country, Zia was promoted to the rank of Colonel in February 1972 and commanded a Brigade in Comilla. In June 1972, Zia was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army. He became Brigadier in 1973 and on 10 October of the same year was promoted to the rank of Major General. On 25 August 1975, Ziaur Rahman, B.U., psc was promoted to the rank of Lt. General and assumed the responsibility of Chief of Army Staff. In a coup d'etat on 3 November 1975, he was, however, removed from his command and was put under house arrest. 'Sepoy-Janata Biplob' followed this event on 7 November 1975, leading to Zia's release and reinstatement. He became one of the Deputy CMLAs, and on 29 November 1976 became the CMLA. The Chief Justice of SC, Justice Syed A. B. Mahmood Hussain on 21 April 1977, swore in Lt. General Ziaur Rahman as President of the Republic.\*

On becoming the head of state, Ziaur Rahman in 1978 through a proclamation order amended the Constitution to insert "*Bismillah-ar-Rahman-ar Rahim*" in the beginning of the Constitution above the Preamble. The proclamation also defined socialism as "meaning economic and social justice". He popularised the concept of Bangladeshi nationalism to emphasize national unity and integration. For social, political and economic uplift, he put forward a 19-point programme on 21 May 1977. It was a comprehensive programme of self-reliance to ensure justice to all sections of the population of the country through increasing production in agricultural and industrial sectors and by pursuing self-help, family planning and decentralization of administration.

A firm believer of multi-party democratic system, Zia floated a new political party called the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on 1 September 1978. He became its Chairman. Election to JS was held on

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\* His Presidency was confirmed through a referendum held in the same year on 30 May. He was the first President to be elected directly on the basis of universal adult franchise on 3 June 1978.

18 February 1979 and BNP won 207 seats out of 300. In the very first session of Parliament held in April, Martial Law was lifted (6 April 1979) after the passage of the Fifth Amendment Bill. Believing in free flow of information, he also lifted all restrictions relating to printing and publication of news and views.

The recruitment of women in the police force started on 8 March 1976. In November 1977, Zia started a programme of canal digging for increasing agricultural output. He set up Women's Affairs Ministry on 11 December 1977. He also increased the number of reserved seats for women in the JS from 15 to 30 and raised the quota for women in government jobs. In February 1980, Zia set up organizations at village level called *Gram Sarkar* with a view to uplifting the social and economic condition of villagers. An anti-dowry act was also passed on 12 December 1980. Besides, he set up the Ministry of Youth Development, which was later merged with the Ministry of Sports.

Ziaur Rahman rejuvenated the cultural life of Bangladesh. In 1976, he introduced the annual 'Ekusay Padak' to give recognition to renowned litterateurs, artists, educationists and prominent personalities who had taken part in the Language Movement and in other walks of national life. In 1977 *Swadhinata Puraskar* (Independence Award) - the highest national award - was also introduced to recognize significant contributions of persons/ organizations in various fields. He set up the *Shishu* Academy and *Shishu* Park and introduced *Notun Kuri* programme for children in BTV. He set up the Performing Arts Academy (now merged with *Shilpakala* Academy), and a few tribal cultural academies/institutes. He also took great interest in heritage preservation and helped the Bangladesh National Museum financially so that it could finish its new complex at Shahbag quickly.

In the matter of foreign affairs, he established excellent relations with almost all countries of the world, especially those of Asia. It was largely due to Zia's influence that Bangladesh could secure a seat in the Security



Council in 1978. He was the initiator of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which became a reality in 1985. Zia became one of the members of the Al Quds Committee on the liberation of Jerusalem (1981) and a member of the Peace Mission to end the Iran-Iraq War (1981). At home, he established the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in 1978.

Ziaur Rahman married Begum Khaleda Khanum in 1960. Khaleda Zia is the present Prime Minister of Bangladesh and was also Prime Minister from 1991-96. They have two sons, Tareq Rahman, and Arafat Rahman. Tareq Rahman is currently the senior joint secretary of BNP.

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was posthumously awarded the highest national honour - the *Swadhinata Puraskar* (Independence Award), 2003 for having proclaimed the Independence of Bangladesh and staging a revolt against the Pakistani occupation forces who cracked down on the unarmed people. He had also called upon the people to build up all out resistance against them.

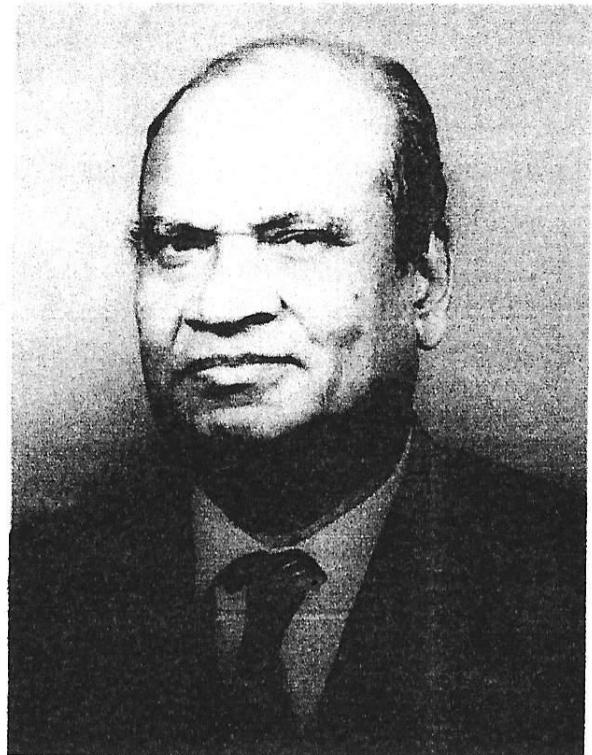
President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in an abortive army coup on 30 May 1981 at the Chittagong Circuit House.

### **Justice Abdus Sattar**

Justice Abdus Sattar became the Acting President of Bangladesh after the assassination of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on 30 May 1981. On becoming the President, Justice Sattar declared a countrywide state of emergency. As a nominee of BNP, he contested the presidential election, and was declared elected to the post on 15 November 1981. Justice Sattar took oath of office in the afternoon of 20 November 1981 at Bangabhaban. Justice Kamaluddin Hussain administered the oath of office.

Justice Sattar was born in 1906 in a respectable family of Bolpur in Birbhum district. After obtaining M. A. in political science and B. L. degree from Kolkata University in 1928 and 1929 respectively, he became

a lawyer at Alipur court in Kolkata. Abdus Sattar was councillor of Kolkata Corporation in 1939, and assessor member, Kolkata Improvement Tribunal from 1940 to 1942. He was appointed deputy executive officer of Kolkata Corporation and officiated as its chief executive officer twice. After Partition, he came to Dhaka and joined the Dhaka HC in 1950. Sattar was a working committee member of Fazlul Huq's *Krishak Sramik* Party, and was elected member of the Second Constituent Assembly in 1955. He became Minister for Interior and Education, GOP in 1956; a Judge of the HC of EP in 1957; and of the SC of Pakistan in 1967. He was appointed Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan in 1969.



◀  
Justice  
Abdus Sattar

On repatriation from Pakistan in 1973, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Life Insurance Corporation in 1973, Chairman of the Bangladesh Journalists Wage Board in 1974-75 and President of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA). Justice Sattar was appointed Special Assistant to the President in 1975 and held the charge of the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs. He became Vice President of the Republic on 3 June 1977.

As President of the Republic, he tried hard to resist the ascendancy of the Army in civil administration. However, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General H. M. Ershad staged a coup-d'etat and usurped state power by removing the elected President on 24 March 1982. Justice Sattar died on 5 October 1985.

## Justice Abul Fazal Mohammad Ahsanuddin Choudhury

As the CMLA Lt. General H. M. Ershad installed Justice Abul Fazal Mohammad Ahsanuddin Choudhury as the President of the Republic on 27 March 1982. Justice Kamaluddin Hussain administered the oath of office. Justice Ahsanuddin Choudhury resigned on personal grounds on 11 December 1983.

Born on 1 July 1915 at Bokainagar in Gouripur Upazila of Mymensingh district, Ahsanuddin obtained B. L. degree from DU. He joined the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) as Munsiff on 8 May 1942. Ahsanuddin served as District and Sessions Judge in Sylhet, Rangpur and Dhaka. He became an Additional Judge of Dhaka HC in 1968 and was elevated to the Appellate Division of the SC of Bangladesh in 1973. He retired from service in November 1977.

Justice Ahsanuddin was a keen social worker and was associated with a number of organizations/ associations. He was the President of Bangladesh Scouts; Chairman of the Management Board and Board of Trustees of Dhaka *Shishu* Hospital; Chairman of the Governing Body of Dhaka Law College and Chairman of National Foundation of Mental Health. He was also President of the *Anjuman Mufidul Islam*, Chairman of *Hamdard* Bangladesh Limited and Chairman of Dhaka HC *Mazar* Committee.

Justice Ahsanuddin Choudhury died on 30 August 2001.



◀  
Justice  
Abul Fazal  
Mohammad  
Ahsanuddin  
Choudhury

## Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad

The Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA), Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad assumed the office of the President of the Republic on 11 December 1983.\* There was no swearing in ceremony. The CMLA Lt. General H. M. Ershad held a special *munajat* (prayer) at Bangabhaban after the assumption of the office of President. Immediately after assumption of office, General Ershad administered the oath of office to the members of the Council of Ministers. He held a referendum on 20 March 1985 on his 18-point programme and for the restoration of constitutional rule in the country. He retired from the Bangladesh Army with effect from 1 September 1986. On 15 October of the same year, a presidential election took place in which no major political party participated. He was declared elected on 20 October 1986 and took oath of office on 23 October as the third directly elected President (the other two being Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and President Abdus Sattar) of the country at the Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban. Justice F.K.M.A. Munim, Chief Justice of the SC of Bangladesh, administered the oath of office. On 10 November 1986, Martial Law (imposed on 24 March 1982) was withdrawn after the approval of the Seventh Amendment Bill by the JS. From 1987, however, a nation-wide mass movement was built up for his resignation, which further intensified



Lt. General  
Hussain  
Muhammad  
Ershad

\*To become the country's President, he had signed a new proclamation - The Proclamation (Third Amendment) Order, 1983 (Proclamation Order III of 1983) which provided that the CMLA would be the President of Bangladesh. Earlier, he acted as Head of State (styled CMLA) from 24 March 1982 till 27 March 1982.

from October 1990. By the end of November, the anti-Ershad Movement compelled him to declare a state of Emergency. But the situation worsened. In the face of a mass upsurge, Ershad was forced to quit office on 6 December 1990.

Son of Muhammad Maqbul Hussain, a lawyer, Ershad was born on 1 February 1930 at Rangpur. He graduated from DU in 1950 and joined the army in 1952. He also completed the staff course in 1966 from the Staff College, Quetta. He was promoted to Lt. Col. in 1969. On repatriation, he was made Adjutant General and was promoted to the rank of Colonel on 12 December 1973. He attended the National Defence College in Delhi in 1975. He became Brigadier in June 1975 and Major General in August of the same year and was appointed the Deputy Chief of Army Staff. Ershad was promoted to the rank of Lt. General in December 1978 and became the Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Army. He assumed state power in a military coup and became CMLA on 24 March 1982.

Ershad floated a new political party called Jatiya Party (JP) in 1986. Elections to JS were held in May 1986 in which BNP did not participate but a part of the AL- led 15 - party alliance did. In the elections, JP won 153 seats against AL's 76. However, amidst allegations of mass rigging and media coup, Parliament was dissolved in December 1987. Election to the fourth parliament was held anew on 3 March 1988. This election was, however, fully boycotted by all major political parties. JP secured 251 seats out of 300. During his tenure of office, Ershad was able to introduce Upazila System.

After stepping down from power in the face of mass agitation by the opposition alliances, Ershad was arrested on 12 December 1990. A number of cases were filed against him, which included that of corruption, abuse of power, keeping of unlicensed arms and murder and he was sentenced to imprisonment.\* After six years of confinement, the Supreme Court released Ershad on bail on 9 January 1997. He was twice elected from five parliamentary seats in the general elections of February 1991 and June

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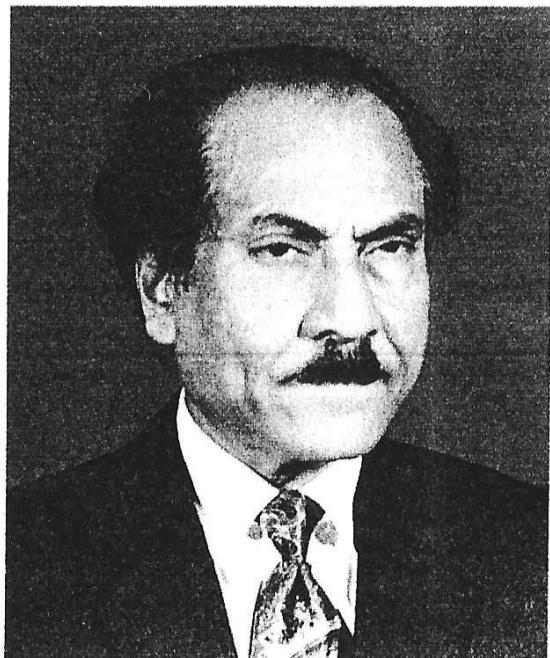
\* Among the Presidents of Bangladesh, he was the second person who served imprisonment.

1996. He was, however, convicted in the Janata Tower Case by the HC on 24 August 2000. He surrendered as per the directives of the court on 20 November 2000. His parliamentary seat was declared vacant by the HC on 6 February 2000 and he was barred from contesting in the elections in the next five years as per the provisions of the Constitution for moral turpitude. After suffering imprisonment and detention for four months and nineteen days, he was released on 9 April 2001.

Jatiya Party contested in the JS elections held on 27 February 1991 and secured 35 seats and in the general elections of 12 June 1996, got 32 seats. H. M. Ershad still leads the mainstream of JP as its Chairman. His wife, Raushan Ershad, is an elected member of JS.

### **Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed**

On the resignation of President Lt. General (Retd.) H. M. Ershad on 6 December 1990, the Chief Justice of the SC of Bangladesh who was appointed Vice President earlier on the day took over as the Acting President of the country. Justice Shahabuddin was heading an interim government as a nominee of the major opposition alliances to hold a free, fair and neutral election to Parliament. President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office to his Council of Advisors at Bangabhaban on 9 December 1990 and held the first meeting on 15 December 1990. After the fifth JS elections held on 27 February 1991, and the swearing in of the new President on 9 October 1991, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed returned to his original post as the Chief Justice of the SC of Bangladesh. He retired on



◀  
Justice  
Shahabuddin  
Ahmed

1 February 1995. On 23 July 1996, he was elected the President of the country unopposed, and took oath of office on 9 October 1996. Chief Justice of the SC, Justice A. T. M. Afzal, administered the oath of office to the President-elect at the Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban. The change over from Abdur Rahman Biswas (the first President to complete the term of his office) to Justice Shahabuddin was the first formal change of Presidency in the history of Bangladesh. Though Justice Shahabuddin's term of office expired on 8 October 2001, he had to continue as President (under the safeguard clause of Article 50 (1) of the Constitution) till Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury was elected President of the Republic on 14 November 2001.

Shahabuddin Ahmed was born in 1930 in village Pemai of Kendua upazila in the district of Netrokona. His father Talukder Risat Ahmed Bhuiyan was a renowned social worker and philanthropist. Shahabuddin Ahmed obtained B. A. (Honours) in Economics in 1951 and M. A. in International Relations in 1952 from DU. He joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1954, and was transferred to the judicial branch in 1960. Shahabuddin Ahmed served as District and Sessions Judge of Comilla and Chittagong. He became Registrar of the HC of EP in 1967. He was elevated to the Bench of the HC on 20 January 1972. He also acted on deputation at the Labour Appellate Tribunal for two years, 1973 and 1974. Justice Shahabuddin was appointed a Judge of the Appellate Division of the SC of Bangladesh on 7 February 1980 and was confirmed on 15 April 1981. He was Chairman, Bangladesh Red Cross Society, from August 1978 to April 1982 in addition to his own duties. Justice Shahabuddin was Chairman of the National Pay Commission in 1984. He was appointed the Chief Justice of the SC on 14 January 1990.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed discharged the responsibilities entrusted upon him conscientiously, and earned the respect of the nation as a hard-working, cool, composed and a disciplined person. During his tenure as Acting President, a devastating cyclone hit Chittagong-Cox's Bazar regions on the midnight of 29 & 30 April 1991. The storm killed at least one hundred and thirty eight thousand persons. The cyclone also heavily

damaged fighter planes of the Bangladesh Air Force and immobilized or sunk all the major ships of the Navy. This led the Acting President and the supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to retire the Chief of Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force, Air Vice Marshall Mumtazuddin Ahmed and Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa, Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy from services with effect from 4 June 1991.

Justice Shahabuddin is married to Anowara Begum and is the father of two sons and three daughters.

### Abdur Rahman Biswas

Abdur Rahman Biswas was sworn in at the Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban on 9 October 1991. Acting Chief Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman administered the oath of office to the newly elected President. Earlier on 8 October 1991, Biswas was elected President of the Republic by the JS. In the election that took place, Biswas polled 172 votes against Justice Badrul Hyder Chowdhury's 92 votes. President Biswas completed the term of five years and handed over Presidency to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on 9 October 1996.



Abdur  
Rahman  
Biswas

Abdur Rahman Biswas was born in September 1926 at Shaistabad in Barisal sadar upazila. He received his early education at Barisal Zilla School. He passed both matriculation and intermediate examinations under the Kolkata University in first division. Biswas earned his

B.A. (Honours) and M.A. degree in History from DU. He also obtained LL.B. from the same University. Abdur Rahman Biswas participated in the Language Movement and subsequently joined the Barisal Bar in 1955, and later enrolled himself as an Advocate of the Dhaka HC in 1959. He was elected a member of the EP Provincial Assembly in 1962 and in 1965 on the Muslim League ticket. Biswas was appointed a Parliamentary Secretary of the GOEP in 1965 and remained so till 1969.

After the liberation of the country, Biswas was elected President of Barisal Bar in 1974 and again re-elected in 1976. He was also elected chairman of Barisal Municipality in 1977. Biswas returned as a member of JS from Barisal Kotwali constituency on the BNP ticket in 1979. He was appointed a Cabinet Minister by President Ziaur Rahman and given the charge of the Ministry of Jute. He also served as a member of the Council of Ministers under President Abdus Sattar, and was assigned the charge of the Ministry of Health and Population Control. Biswas was elected to JS again in 1991, and became Speaker of the fifth JS by 187 to 97 division votes on 5 April 1991. He resigned as Speaker of JS to get the nomination of BNP to contest the presidential election.

During the period of the Non-party Caretaker Government in 1996, as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, President Biswas firmly dealt with a serious Army rebellion. He was compelled to sack the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim on May 20, 1996 who dared to challenge the authority of a constitutional head of state. By doing so, he earned the esteem of the entire nation.

### **Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury**

Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury was declared elected President of the Republic on 12 November 2001. The Chief Justice of the SC, Mr. Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury, swore him in on 14 November 2001. Professor Badruddoza resigned from the presidency on 21 June 2002, showing respect to the decision of BNP's parliamentary

party. Prior to his becoming President, he was the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh for one month and five days.

Badruddoza Chowdhury, the second son of a former Minister of EP, Kafil Uddin Chowdhury and Mrs. Sufia Khatun was born on 1 November 1932 in his maternal uncle's residence in Comilla. He hails from Majidpur Dayhata in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj district. Badruddoza studied in St. Gregory High School, Dhaka College, and Dhaka Medical College and at the University of Wales in UK. He received post-graduate medical training in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh. He received TDD from Wales University in 1959 and MRCP from Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1961. He was elected FCPS (Bangladesh) as an Honorary Fellow in 1978; and Fellow to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and Glasgow (FRCP).

Professor Chowdhury started his career as a physician and served the Rajshahi Medical College, Salimullah Medical College, Sylhet Medical College besides being an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research, Dhaka. Author of a number of scientific papers, Professor Chowdhury was President of the National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) from 1974 till 1979. He is a former President of the International Union against Tuberculosis of Lung Diseases (IUATLD) of Asia Pacific Zone with headquarters in Paris. He was honoured with Swadhinata Puraskar (Independence Award) for distinguished contribution in the field of medical science in 1993.



◀  
Professor  
Dr. A. Q. M.  
Badruddoza  
Chowdhury

Professor Chowdhury is also a renowned cultural personality of the country. He authored several plays, wrote essays, and is an orator of distinction. He received National Television Award in 1976. He was also President of Bangladesh-Egypt Friendship Society.

He joined BNP in 1978 and has been active in politics. He is the founder secretary general of BNP when Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was its Chairman. Professor Chowdhury was elected MP five terms, from Munshiganj-1 constituency in 1979, 1991, 1996 (twice) and 2001 as a nominee of BNP. He was Senior Deputy Prime Minister of President Ziaur Rahman's Cabinet and was in charge of the Ministry of Health and Population. He was Minister of Education, Science, Technology, and Culture in the Cabinet of Begum Khaleda Zia in 1991. He was also Deputy Leader of the House in the second, fifth, sixth, and for sometime of the eighth JS; and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Parliamentary Party in the seventh Parliament (1996-2001).

Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury has severed all his connections with the BNP and floated a new political party by the name of *Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh*. He became its Convenor on 11 March 2004.

Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury is married to Mrs. Hasina Chowdhury. He has two daughters, and one son. His son, Mahi B. Chowdhury is a Member of Parliament from Munshiganj-1 constituency from the newly - floated political party- *Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh*.

## **Barrister Md. Jamiruddin Sircar**

Upon the resignation of Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury from Presidency on 21 June 2002, Barrister Md. Jamiruddin Sircar (Speaker of the JS) became the Acting President of the Republic under Article 54 of the Constitution. Although he did not reside at Bangabhaban, he performed the functions of his office from there. He remained Acting President till Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed took over on 6 September 2002.

Md. Jamiruddin Sircar was born on 1 December 1931 at Nayabari under Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh district. His father, Moulvi Ali Baksh, was a *jotdar* (landed proprietor). His mother's name was Begum Fakhrunnessa. While a resident student of Iqbal Hall (now Sgt. Zahirul Huq Hall) of Dhaka University, he was its vice president. He obtained his M. A. degree in History in 1959 and also earned LL. B. Degree from DU. He was called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn and started his legal practice at Dhaka HC. He was a member of the Bangladesh Delegation to the UN General Assembly five times from 1977 till 1981. He became a member of the Standing Committee of BNP from the very inception of the Party in 1978. In 1979, he was elected to JS from Panchagarh-1 constituency, and was appointed State Minister for Public Works and Urban Development Ministry. The unfinished work of JS complex was completed during his tenure of office. After Ziaur Rahman's assassination in 1981, President Justice Sattar appointed him State Minister for Foreign Affairs. In 1991 when BNP came to power, Barrister Sircar was appointed State Minister for Land Administration and Land Reforms. Upon vacation of Dhanmondi-Muhammadpur Constituency (Dhaka-9) by Begum Khaleda Zia in 1991, he was elected to JS from that seat. From 1991 till 1996, Barrister Sircar was Minister for Science and Technology and Minister for Education. As a technocrat Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, he introduced and piloted the Non-Party Caretaker Government Bill in the sixth JS in March 1996. He was elected a member of JS from Panchagarh-1 in 1996 and in the 2001 general election. Sircar became Speaker of the eighth JS on 28 October 2001, and was sworn in by President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's chamber in JS. He has written a



Barrister  
Md.  
Jamiruddin  
Sircar

book titled *Glimpses of International Law* in 1997.

Barrister Sircar is married to Begum Nur Akhtar and has a daughter and two sons.

## Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

Eminent soil scientist and educationist Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed took oath of office as President of the Republic on 6 September 2002. Chief Justice of Bangladesh SC Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury administered the oath of office to the President-elect. Professor Dr. Iajuddin is the fourth President to be elected by the JS since the restoration of parliamentary system in 1991.

Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed was born on 1 February 1931 and hails from Nayagaon of Munshiganj district. Son of Moulvi Ibrahim Mia, he passed matriculation examination from Munshiganj H. E. School in 1948 and I.Sc. from Haraganga College in 1950. He obtained B. Sc. in 1952 and M. Sc. in 1954, securing First Class from DU. He also did post-graduate studies abroad and received Masters degree in 1958 and Ph. D. in 1962 from Wisconsin University, USA.

He joined DU as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Soil Science in May 1963, became Reader in the same Department in August 1964 and Professor in December 1973. He was Chairman of the Department in 1968-69 and in 1976-79. Professor Iajuddin Ahmed was also Provost of Salimullah Hall from 1975-83. He was elected Dean of Biological Science Faculty for a term of two years, 1989-91. Professor Iajuddin was an



◀  
Professor  
Dr. Iajuddin  
Ahmed

elected member of the Senate and Syndicate. As elected President of the DU Teachers' Association (DUTA), he played a leading role against the autocratic regime of General Ershad by organizing the professional groups and thereby earned the admiration of the nation. He was appointed an Advisor to the Interim Government of 1990-91, and held the charge of the Ministry of Food and Culture. Professor Dr. Iajuddin was Chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC), 1991-93; and also Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), 1995-99.\* As a leading member of the civil society, Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed was outspoken in upholding the democratic values of the society. He joined State University as Vice-Chancellor in 2002. Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed has to his credit a large number of research papers, forty-eight of which have so far been published in foreign journals. He has been decorated with *Ekusay Padak* in 1995 for his contribution in the field of education. He received Ibrahim Gold Medal in 1987-88 and Atish Dipankar Gold Medal in 1990 for outstanding research and publications. Besides English, Bengali and Urdu language, Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed knows Spanish and French reasonably well.

Professor Ahmed is married to educationist Professor Dr. Anwara Begum. She is now the vice-chancellor of a private university - Atish Dipankar University. The university was established as a result of the initiative and patronage of President Iajuddin Ahmed.

Professor Iajuddin is father of three children.

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\* Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed retired from the University of Dhaka on 30 June 1996.

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## Appendix

**Table 1 Chronological List of Lieutenant - Governors and Acting Lieutenant - Governors of Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1905-1912**

Sl. No.	Name	Held Office	
		From	To
1.	Sir Joseph Bamfylde Fuller	16 October 1905	20 August 1906
2.	Sir Lancelot Hare	20 August 1906	20 August 1911
3.	Sir Charles Stuart Bayley	22 August 1911	31 March 1912

Note: The Lieutenant-Governorship of Eastern Bengal and Assam was abolished on 1 April 1912.

**Table 2 Chronological List of Governors and Acting Governors of East Bengal / East Pakistan, 1947- 1971**

Sl. No.	Name	Held Office	
		From	To
1.	Sir Frederick Chalmers Bourne	15 August 1947	5 April 1950
2.	Justice A. S. M. Akram (Acting)	16 March 1949	25 April 1949
3.	Malik Firoz Khan Noon	5 April 1950	3 April 1953
4.	Abdur Rahman Siddiqui (Acting)	25 July 1952	10 November 1952
5.	Choudhury Khaliquzzaman	4 April 1953	30 May 1954
6.	Major General Iskander Mirza	30 May 1954	? September 1954
7.	Justice Sir T. H. Ellis (Acting)	21 September 1954	22 December 1954
8.	Justice Mohammad Shahabuddin (Acting)	22 December 1954	14 June 1955
9.	Justice Amir-ud-din Ahmad (Acting)	9 March 1956	14 June 1955
10.	Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq	9 March 1956	31 March 1958
11.	Muhammad Hamid Ali (Acting)	1 April 1958	3 May 1958
12.	Sultanuddin Ahmad	3 May 1958	10 October 1958
13.	Zakir Husain	11 October 1958	14 April 1960
14.	Lt. General Mohammad Azam Khan	15 April 1960	11 May 1962
15.	Syed Hashim Raza (Acting)	1 July 1961	5 August 1961
16.	Ghulam Faruque	11 May 1962	? October 1962
17.	Abdul Monem Khan	28 October 1962	23 March 1969
18.	Professor Dr. Mirza Nurul Huda	23 March 1969	25 March 1969

Sl. No.	Name	Held Office	
		From	To
*19.	Major General Muzaffar-ud-din	25 March 1969	23 August 1969
**20.	Lt. General Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan	23 August 1969	1 September 1969
21.	Vice Admiral Syed Mohammad Ahsan	1 September 1969	1 March 1971
***22.	Lt. General Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan	1 March 1971	7 March 1971
+23.	Lt. General Tikka Khan	7 March 1971	3 September 1971
++24.	Dr. Abdul Motaleb Malik	3 September 1971	14 December 1971
++25.	Lt. General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi	14 December 1971	16 December 1971

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- \* From 25 March 1969 till 8 April 1969 MLA, and from the latter date exercised powers and functions of Governor in addition to being MLA.
- \*\* From 23 August 1969 till 1 September 1969, he exercised powers and functions of Governor in addition to being MLA.
- \*\*\* From 1 March 1971 till 7 March, he was Head of Civil Administration in the Province in addition to being MLA.
- + MLA and Head of Civil Administration of the Province from 7 March 1971 till he was sworn-in as Governor of occupied territory of Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) on 9 April 1971.
- ++ Governor of occupied territory of Bangladesh (former East Pakistan).
- +++ Commander, Eastern Command and MLA.

**Table 3 Chronological List of Presidents and Acting Presidents of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1971-**

Sl. No.	Name	Held Office	
		From	To
1.	Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in absentia till 10 January 1972)	17 April 1971	12 January 1972
2.	Syed Nazrul Islam (Acting)	17 April 1971	10 January 1972
3.	Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury	12 January 1972	24 December 1973
4.	Mohammad Mohammadullah (Acting till 27 January 1974)	24 December 1973	25 January 1975
5.	Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	25 January 1975	15 August 1975
6.	Khandker Mustaque Ahmad	15 August 1975	6 November 1975
*7.	Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem	6 November 1975	21 April 1977
**8.	Lt. General Ziaur Rahman	21 April 1977	30 May 1981
9.	Justice Abdus Sattar (Acting till 20 November 1981)	30 May 1981	24 March 1982
***10.	Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad	24 March 1982	27 March 1982
11.	Justice A. F. M. Ahsanuddin Choudhury	27 March 1982	11 December 1983
+12.	Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad	11 December 1983	6 December 1990
13.	Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed (Acting)	6 December 1990	9 October 1991
14.	Abdur Rahman Biswas	9 October 1991	8 October 1996
15.	Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed	9 October 1996	14 November 2001
16.	Professor Dr. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury	14 November 2001	21 June 2002
17.	Barrister Md. Jamiruddin Sircar (Acting)	21 June 2002	6 September 2002
18.	Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed	6 September 2002	—

\* Justice Sayem was also CMLA from 6 November 1975 till 29 November 1976.

\*\* Lt. General Ziaur Rahman was CMLA from 29 November 1976 till 6 April 1979.

\*\*\* Styled CMLA.

+ He was also CMLA from 24 March 1982 till 10 November 1986.